

On the Male of *Pilodeudorix bemba* (Neave) from Zambia (Lep.: Lycaenidae)

By G. E. TITE*

The species described by S. A. Neave (1910:14) as *Deudorix bemba* has hitherto been known only from the unique female type, which is labelled "Luwingu, North of Lake Bangweolo, 2.vi.1908" and is in the collection of the University Museum, Oxford. A male specimen sent to the author by Dr. E. C. G. Pinhey of the National Museum, Bulawayo was captured by Mr. Ian Loe at Chililambombwe (formerly Bancroft), Zambia, in June 1969. This insect did at first appear to be new to science, but on comparison with the *bemba* type it was at once apparent that the underside colouring and pattern were identical; this, the general appearance of the upper surface of the wings, and the fact that both insects originated from the same general area made it almost certain that the Chililambombwe specimen is in fact the male of *bemba*. Dr. Pinhey (i.l) points out that the region from which these insects originate is now rather inaccessible, and that more collecting in the area is unlikely at present; it is therefore deemed advisable to describe the male, without waiting for confirmatory material.

Acknowledgements are made to the authorities of the Hope Department, University Museum, Oxford, in particular to Professor G. C. Varley, to Dr. E. C. G. Pinhey, to Mr. Ian D. Loe of Lusaka, and to Mr. T. G. Howarth recently of the British Museum (Natural History). Mr. Loe has most generously presented the specimen to the University Museum, Oxford.

The male may be described as follows: The forewing is more acute than that of the female, the distal margin slightly but evenly curved, and the spaces between the vein-ends convex, giving a somewhat scalloped effect. There is a distinct lobe on the basal half of the hind margin. In size, only slightly smaller than the type, the forewing measures approximately 14 mm. from base to apex. On the upper surface, the colour is dull violaceous blue of a deeper tint than that of the female. The costa is brownish black throughout its length, widening towards the apex to form a triangular area, which extends as a narrowing marginal line to the hind angle. The veins are sparsely scattered with blackish scales. Neave in his description of the female says that the under surface is pale greyish; it is here respectfully suggested that pale earth-brown would be a more accurate description. In other respects the male under surface does accurately agree with Neave's description, except

PLATE VII

Figs. 1-4. *Pilodeudorix bemba* Neave: 1. upperside ♂; 2. underside ♂; 3. upperside ♀ (holotype); 4. underside ♀ (holotype).

P. bemba ♂ genitalia: A. aedeagus; B. valves.

* 96 Dundale Road, Tring, Herts.

that from a shiny area in the hind marginal lobe arises a pencil of blackish hair.

In the hindwing, the distal margin is weakly concave between the angle at vein 3 and the end of vein 6. The anal tails are missing in the insect examined, but it is to be presumed that they are long and dusky as described by Neave. The stub of such a tail is visible at the end of vein 2. A pale mealy spot of specialised scales is situated over the juncture of veins 6 and 7; it is roughly triangular in shape, but has a slight distal projection on vein 7. The colour is similar to that of the forewing, violaceous blue, with a hair-like dusky distal margin, and a broad black-brown area at the costa covering the whole of area 7, and the basal two-thirds of area 6. In areas 1, 2 and 3, the dusky distal margin is inwardly bordered by a whitish stripe. A well defined anal lobe is marked by a reddish brown area at its base. The under surface is exactly as described by Neave. On all wings, the cilia are dusky above and of the same earth-brown as the under surface ground colour below.

Genitalia. These organs are very like those of *Pilodeudorix cameroni* Plotz as figured by Stempffer (1967: 105, f. 97), the aedeagus having the same general shape and a similar large cuneus. The valves differ in being of an elongated leaf-shape, each terminating in an acute point; on their upper edge arises a curved finger-like projection.

References

- Neave, S. A., 1910. Zoological Collections from Northern Rhodesia and Adjacent Territories: Lepidoptera Rhopalocera. *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, 1910: 2-86, 3 pls., map.
- Stempffer, H., 1967. The Genera of African Lycaenidae (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.) Suppl.*, 10: 1-322, 1 plt.

A CASE AGAINST THE AUTOMOBILE. — Mr. Colin Pratt (*Ent. Rec.*, 89: 330) presents some illuminating statistics on the large scale slaughter by motor vehicles of night-flying lepidoptera; and goes on to suggest that butterflies appear to suffer but few casualties, and those only among the Pieridae. That may be so, but my own belief is that a more detailed study may show a much wider range of species to be affected.

From experience of holiday motoring in France, I have noted that the large, slow-flying species are particularly susceptible and I have seen numerous examples of the swallow-tails (*Papilio machaon* L. and *Iphiclidides podalirius* L.), and also of the great banded grayling (*Brintesia circe* F.) which have been hit by motor vehicles. Perhaps more surprising, in the summer of 1976 in Cumbria, I came across a purple hair-streak (*Quercusia quercus* L.) also apparently having been hit by a vehicle. Incidentally, I believe a large number of caterpillars of some species of moths are also killed on the roads as they set off on their way to pupate. — G. G. BALDWIN, 22 Edgerton Grove Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5QX.